



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Geological Survey

[GX23WC00GJNV331; OMB Control Number 1028-0106]

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; USGS Ashfall Report

**AGENCY:** U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is proposing to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before

**[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].**

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection request (ICR) should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Please provide your comments to U.S. Geological Survey, Information Collections Officer, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 159, Reston, VA 20192; or by email to [gs-info\\_collections@usgs.gov](mailto:gs-info_collections@usgs.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 1028-0106 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Kristi Wallace by email at [kwallace@usgs.gov](mailto:kwallace@usgs.gov) or by telephone at (907) 786-7109. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD,

or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the PRA 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

A *Federal Register* notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on November 4, 2022 (87 FR 66743). No comments were received.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How the agency might minimize the burden of the collection of

information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your PII—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Abstract:* The USGS provides notifications and warnings to the public of volcanic activity in the U.S. in order to reduce the loss of life and property and to mitigate the economic and societal impacts. Ash fallout to the ground can pose significant disruption and damage to buildings, transportation, water and wastewater, power supply, communications equipment, agriculture, and primary production leading to potentially substantial societal impacts and costs, even at thicknesses of only a few millimeters or inches. Additionally, fine grained ash, when ingested can cause health impacts to humans and animals. The USGS will use reports entered by respondents in real time of ash fall in their local area to correct or refine ash fall forecasts as the ash cloud moves downwind. Retrospectively these reports will enable the USGS to improve their ash fall models and further their research into eruptive processes.

This project is a database module and web interface allowing the public and Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) staff to enter reports of ash fall in their local area in real time and retrospectively following an eruptive event. Users browsing the AVO web site during eruptions will be directed towards a web form

allowing them to fill in ash fall information and submit the information to AVO. Compiled ashfall reports are available in real-time to AVO staff through the AVO internal website. A pre-formatted summary report or table that distills information received online will show ash fall reports in chronological order with key fields including (1) date and time of ash fall, (2) location, (3) positive or negative ash fall (4) name of observer, and (5) contact information which is easily viewable internally on the report so that calls for clarification can be made by AVO staff quickly and Operations room staff can visualize ashfall information quickly.

Ashfall report data will also be displayed on a dynamic map interface and show positive (yes ash) and negative (no ash) ash fall reports by location. Ash fall reports (icons) will be publicly displayed for a period of 24 hours and shaded differently as they age so that the age of reports is obvious.

The ashfall report database will help AVO track eruption clouds and associated fallout downwind. These reports from the public will also give scientists a more complete record of the amount, duration, and other conditions of ash fall. Getting first-hand accounts of ash fall will support ashfall model development and interpretation of satellite imagery. AVO scientists will – as time allows - be able to contact the individuals using their entered contact information for clarification and details. Knowing the locations from which ash-fall reports have been filed will improve ash fall warning messages, AVO Volcanic Activity Notifications, and make fieldwork more efficient. AVO staff will be able to condense and summarize the various ash fall reports and forward that information on to emergency management agencies and the wider public. The online form will also free up resources during an eruption, a time that is exceedingly busy for the USGS as most individuals currently phone AVO with their reports.

*Title of Collection:* USGS Ash Fall Report.

*OMB Control Number:* 1028-0106.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public* General Public, local governments and emergency managers.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* We are likely to ask individuals to respond 1-6 times year which is the number of past eruptions we have during any one year in Alaska. Individuals can submit responses more than once during an eruption to report ashfall details.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* Approximately 575 individuals affected by a volcanic ashfall event each year.

*Estimated Completion Time per Response:* We estimate the public reporting burden will average 5 minutes per response. This includes the time for reviewing instructions and answering a web-based questionnaire.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 79 hours.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* On occasion, after each ashfall event.

*Total Estimated Annual Non-hour Burden Cost:* \$741

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, nor is a person required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Christina Neal,**  
*Director, USGS Volcano Science Center.*